THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The number of post offices with a single man operation functioning in the Adivasi districts of Maharashtra is 266.

(b) and (c) Post Offices are opend on norm-bases justifications, approval of targets and resources available. The establishment of each office depends upon the workload of that office. Targets are fixed for opening Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices and Departmental Sub Post Offices in the rural areas of the country and whether the proposed post office will be opened with the establishment of a single person or more is worked out at the time of formulation of each such proposal. There is a target for opening 100 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices and Deapartmental Sub Post Offices during the Annual Plan 1999-2000, in the tribal areas of the country, out of which 7 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices and One Departmental Sub Post Office will be opened in Maharashtra subject to norm-based justification and availability of resources.

Village Public Telephone Scheme

1242. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are not satisfied with the progress made with regard to Village Public Telephone Scheme;

(b) if so, the remedial measures proposed by Government;

(c) the number of such telephones provided during the last three years, State-wise separately; and

(d) the number of such telephones proposed to be provided during the current year, State-wise separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) There are 607,491 villages in the country. Upto 30.11.1999, Village Public Telephones have been provided in 346,842 villages. The Government plans are to cover the remaining 260,649 villages by March, 2002. Private Service Providers will also contribute in achiving this objective.

(c) and (d) The number of telephone provided during the last

three years and proposed to be provided during the current year (state-wise) are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Sl. No.	Telecom circles	Telephones Provided in villages during			Approved Target 1999-2000
		1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	75	30	56	63
2.	Andhra Pradesh	2619	1566	526	0
3.	Assam	1665	2484	2907	3000
4.	Bihar	3526	2615	2137	8000
5.	Gujarat	1505	0	0	0
6.	Haryana	1204	195	0	26
7.	Himachal Pradesh	1034	1504	1208	2500
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	730	437	763	1500
9.	Karnataka	4120	3389	2521	2000
10.	Kerala	0	0	0	0
11.	Madhya Pradesh	7355	3878	3707	5000
12.	Maharashtra	4691	2725	2462	0
13.	Goa	36	36	10	0
14.	Arunachal Pradesh	104	50	21	750
15.	Manipur	81	115	48	300
16.	Meghalaya	86	180	233	300
17.	Mizoram	121	15	30	79
18.	Nagaland	120	44	21	307
19.	Tripura	132	70	51	264
20.	Orissa	3423	2402	2242	3000
21.	Punjab	3506	1327	173	0
22.	Rajasthan	5051	3269	2585	0
23.	Tamilnadu	2608	2530	196	0
24.	UP (East)	5702	8618	8219	7000
25.	UP (West)	400	2197	2937	6000
26.	West Bengal	2852	3153	3955	4945
27.	Sikkim	8	4	50	55
28.	Calcutta Telephones	365	22	0	47
	TOTAL	56719	42855	37058	45136